

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1863

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PO, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH DEMARCHE TO PORTUGAL

REF: COPENHAGEN 0930

1. DANISH DELEGATION HAS SENT TO SYG LUNS, WITH COPIES TO PERMREPS WHO ATTENDED RECENT NATO MEETINGS ON PORTUGAL, AN ACCOUNT OF APRIL 2 CONVERSATION BETWEEN DANISH AMBASSADOR TO LISBON, AND PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. ACCORDING TO DANISH DEL'S TRANSMITTAL LETTER, DANISH AMBASSADOR WAS INSTRUCTED TO STRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE THAT PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL SITUATION WAS MOVING TOWARD A TRUE PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY SO THAT PORTUGAL COULD BE A PARTNER FOR "FRUITFUL COLLABORATION" WITH OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, DANISH AMBASSADOR WAS INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS HIS AUTHORITIES' SATISFACTION OVER PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT ABOUT LISBON'S INTENTION TO REMAIN WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

2. FOLLOWING IS MISSION TRANSLATION OF FRENCH LANGUAGE ORIGINAL OF DANISH REPORT. BEGIN TEXT:

AFTER THE DANISH AMBASSDOR HAD ORALLY STATED THE VIEWS  
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OF HIS AUTHORITIES, PRESIDENT GOMES THANKED HIM AND ADDED THAT HE WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT THE WESTERN WORLD PRESENTLY HAD AN UNFAVORABLE IMAGE OF PORTUGAL. WESTERN COUNTRIES FIND THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS LEANING TOO FAR TO THE LEFT BUT,

AFTER 48 YEARS UNDER A FASCIST REGIME AND 13 YEARS OF COLONIAL WARS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXPECT A MODERATE POLICY. THE PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT THE OFFICERS WHO TODAY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT--ALTHOUGH SOCIALIST--FIRMLY INTEND TO INTRODUCE A PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY.

ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, PORTUGAL WILL CONTINUE TO BELONG TO NATO BUT AT THE SAME TIME PORTUGAL WILL DEVELOP--AS DE-COLONIZATION PROGRESSES--ITS LINKS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD. THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES THAT THANKS TO THE CENTURIES-OLD TIES BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND THESE COUNTRIES AND PORTUGAL'S INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THESE COUNTRIES, FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RELATIONS WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF EUROPE.

THE AMBASSADOR SUMMED UP HIS IMPRESSIONS BY NOTING THAT THE PRESIDENT SPOKE IN THE SAME GENERAL AND SOOTHING TERMS THAT HE HAS SO OFTEN USED IN THE PAST. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT DID NOT APPEAR TO USE THE VARIOUS DEMARCHES MADE BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES AS A MEANS FOR TRYING TO SLOW DOWN THE AFM'S MOVEMENT TOWARD THE LEFT. THE PRESIDENT APPEARED TIRED AND OVERWORKED.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT, JUDGING FROM THE PORTUGUESE PRESS, THE RECENT DEMARCHES BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO HAVE A TRULY BILATERAL CHARACTER, BUT ARE SEEN RATHER AS THE RESULT OF CONCERTED ACTION BY NATO. THE EXTREMISTS OF THE LEFT HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO USE THIS ARGUMENT IN THEIR PROPAGANDA TO SHOW HOW NATO IS PRESSURING PORTUGAL. ONE CAN EXPECT THAT THIS ARGUMENT WILL BE VIGOROUSLY EXPLOITED DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

END TEXT  
PEREZ

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